system of defined benefit pension, was notified on 22nd December, 2003. the new system was implemented with effect from 1st January, 2004. The monthly contribution in the new pension system by the employee is 10% of the salary and DA. a matching contribution is given by the Central Government.

Increase in customs duty on steel

2310. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steel industry has demanded increase in customs duty on steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore, and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM). (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received from certain steel manufacturers, requesting for increase in rate of customs duty on steel, as domestic manufacturers are disadvantaged. They have *inter-alia* referred to higher costs of some of their inputs and increase in imports of certain steel products.

(c) Taking into consideration all relevant points, Government have not agreed to the requests for increase in basic customs duty on steel.

Credit to agriculture sector

2311. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has set up an Expert Group to formulate the necessary strategy for raising investment with a view to increasing credit to the agriculture sector by 30 per cent;

(b) whether the Report of the Expert Group, which was supposed to submit its report in May, 2005 has submitted its report;

(c) if so, what are the salient features of the report; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India had set up an "Expert Group on Investment Credit to Agriculture" under the